



**SUBSTITUTE
SPECIFICATION**

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**METHOD OF COORDINATING MAINTENANCE OF
VITAL PATIENT DATA AND
SOFTWARE THEREFOR**

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application claims the benefit of priority, under 35 U.S.C. §119(e), to Provisional Patent Application No. 60/109,453, which was filed on November 23, 1998, and which is incorporated, in its entirety, herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to methodologies for gathering, archiving, and subsequent retrieving and updating of patient healthcare information. More specifically, the present invention relates to methods and corresponding software for creating a digital Vital Patient Record which automates much of the gathering, archiving, retrieving and updating functions mentioned above. A method of operating a Core Records System within the clinical environment is also disclosed.

Description of the Related Art:

Healthcare delivery throughout most of the world depends on or is interlinked with patient healthcare records. Moreover, just within the clinical environment, there are many tasks related to this information, which tasks include:

- (1) gathering healthcare data;
- (2) archiving the healthcare data;
- (3) accessing the healthcare data, e.g., in preparation for an office visit;